

STATEMENT BY:
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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO THE
UNITED NATIONS (NEW YORK)

6TH COMMITTEE
79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER

AGENDA ITEM: 86
“PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS”

04 OCTOBER 2024

Chair

1. As it is the first time my delegation takes the floor in the 79th session, allow us to congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election and successful assumption of duties, as well as your able stewardship of our deliberations thus far. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support.

Chair

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the Republic of Uganda on behalf of the Africa Group.

Chair

3. Similar to the vast number of member States represented here today, my delegation notes with concern the increasing number of disasters in the world, particularly the intensity and impact these calamities have on the affected populations. At this alarming rate, it is evident that no jurisdiction can be spared from such phenomena, be it human made or as a result of climate change.
4. Cognizant of this fact, the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini developed frameworks and policies aimed at disaster risk management and response, chief of which is the 2006 Disaster Management Act (currently under review). Furthermore, the Kingdom of Eswatini has sought both bilateral and regional collaborations. Internationally, the Kingdom of Eswatini has recently participated in the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Chair

5. It appears that the foregoing internal endeavors by my Government are just not enough. It is for this reason that my delegation supports the recommendation, by the International Law Commission, to elaborate a convention on the basis of the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. The need for codification of a common international legal framework cannot be over

emphasized as we need to address the fragmentation that currently exists in bilateral and multilateral instruments.

Chair

6. Whilst we continue our deliberations in a bid to harmonize and improve the legal framework for the protection of persons in the event of disasters, my delegation notes a few pitfalls we should guard against if we are to achieve a universally acceptable convention, namely:

6.1 The convention should seek coherence with already existing bilateral and regional instruments and strive to strengthen this framework rather than to contradict and weaken it.

6.2 The precise scope of application of the convention, in establishing the fundamental rights and principles of international cooperation, should be clearly defined to safeguard State sovereignty and ward-off undue and malicious interference in the internal affairs of States. This consideration ought to be *in tandem* with the need to genuinely assist populations in distress within a State's territory.

6.3 Lastly, my delegation supports the inclusion of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the convention, in the light of different national circumstances. Financing of disaster risk management is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges for my jurisdiction which poses the risk of slowing down the implementation of disaster risk management plans, leaving everyone vulnerable even in instances when a risk is known and can be prevented. My delegation therefore calls for enhanced capacity building and collaborations to improve response strategies.

Chair

7. My delegation wishes to express profound gratitude to various relevant agencies within the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and all strategic international partners for their support in advancing DRR in our Kingdom.

In conclusion Chair,

8. The Kingdom of Eswatini remains committed towards ensuring the protection of persons in the event of disasters. Therefore, my delegation looks forward to the Working Group's report to the Sixth Committee on the outcome of its deliberations on further action to be taken in respect of the draft articles.

I THANK YOU